



Space Observer

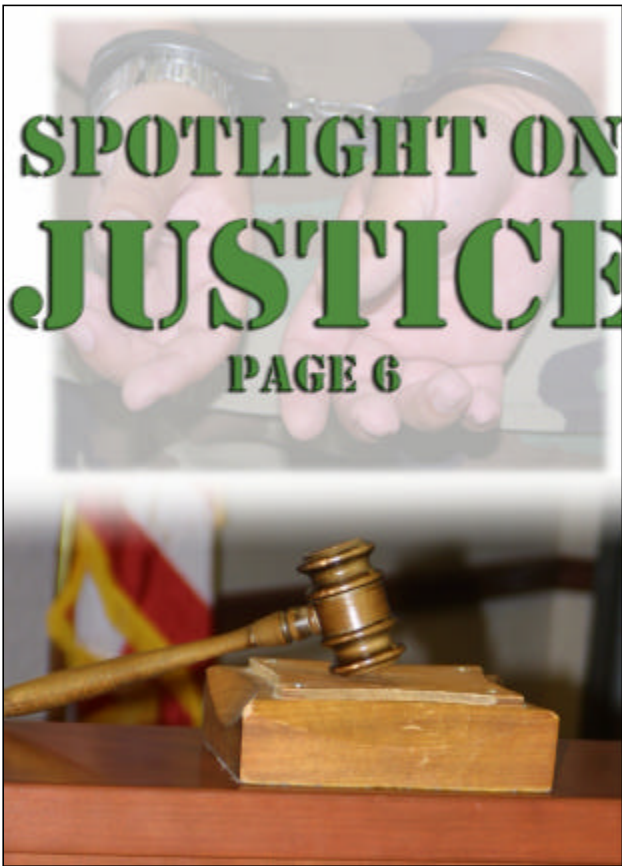
Friday, Sept. 20, 2002

Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado

Vol. 46 No. 36



Photo by Joe Fischer



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Weekend Weather:	Today...Sunny 73°	Saturday...Sunny 69°	Sunday...Sunny 77°



Your ‘half life’

By Brig. Gen. Duane Deal
21st Space Wing Commander

In physics, the term “half-life” refers to the time it takes for a half the nuclei in a substance to undergo radioactive decay; in biology, it refers to the time for an organism to eliminate half the quantity of a substance taken in. To those in a military organization, it carries another meaning entirely.

We all have a half-life, and the one we focus upon this time of year involves the “half-life of a newcomer”—a time period usually lasting 4-6 months after someone arrives at a new unit. It’s during this time that newcomers to an organization see differences from what they’ve seen before, or perhaps notice problems ingrained in a process or facility. It’s also during this time that newcomers should be geared to illuminate and voice what they’ve noticed—that way, the organization can respond with the rationale for the current process, or perhaps move to improve/change



it to make it better. We encourage newcomers to illuminate and voice such observations quickly. If they don’t, after 4-6 months—their “newcomer half-life”—one of two things usually happens: they become part of the problem and cease to notice it anymore, or they feel embarrassed they haven’t surfaced it yet—and thus tend to keep it suppressed.

Good ideas and changes usually aren’t born at the top of an organization, and many arrive with the fresh perspectives of newcomers—newcomers who will voice those perspectives. Channels available are plentiful—to include the chain of command, first sergeants, unit organizations, The Space Observer’s Action Line, and many more avenues.

We can’t fix things unless we know they’re broken, or fine-tune others without a clear path—and we want to do both. So whether you’re a newcomer in the middle of your half-life, or even an “old head” well past it, we urge you to surface your suggestions/complaints/ideas and let us tackle them! Make your half-life whole!

Where are they?



There are **37** members of the Peterson Complex deployed to various locations around the world. Please remember them and their families during these deployments.

(Information courtesy of the 21st Mission Support Squadron)

Action Line

Submitting Action Lines

The Action Line is your direct link to the 21st Space Wing Commander—use it wisely! Try to resolve problems at the lowest level possible—with the person or activity, and then follow the chain of command.

Though it’s not required, we ask that you leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you for clarifications, or if your response isn’t printed.

If you can’t get satisfactory results, then call (719) 556-7777. You may also fax your question to 556-7848.

Commissary concerns

QUESTION: Why does the Commissary have one price on the shelves and another price on the computer? Why is produce sometimes rotten? I have been getting rotten tomatoes and rotten apples.

ANSWER: Thank you for raising these concerns. Due to constant market place price changes, the Commissary only inputs changes twice a month. Management personnel make every effort to have all

self label price changes posted on the shelf prior to opening for business on the second and sixteenth of each month. Please rest assured, management makes every effort to ensure the prices on the shelf match the prices in the computer system. If a discrepancy does occur, the customer will certainly be given the lower of the two prices.

Produce is quality checked before being received and is continually culled throughout the day to ensure fresh top-quality produce. In addition to a new commissary manager, we have a new produce manager who will certainly bring added attention to this area of your Commissary.

Again thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. We place great importance on customer service, and your comments give us the opportunity to improve. Should you need assistance in the future, please contact the commissary staff at 556-7765.

Space A issues

QUESTION: Since the passenger terminal is closed after 4:30 p.m. on weekends, and on holidays, how can we catch space available flights? Thank you.

ANSWER: Department of Defense Regulation

4515.13-R regulates the Space Available Program. Our terminal supports this program to the fullest extent permissible. Regrettably, it is normally only available to customers during duty hours. However, we do advertise space availability for weekend and after duty hours space-required missions with surplus seats. You may obtain our 48-hour schedule via phone flight recording at 556-4707 and the Flight Information Data System located in the lobby of the Air Passenger Terminal.

A job well done

THANKYOU: I had the privilege of attending the funeral of a longtime good friend and co-worker last week, and witnessing the beautiful and sensitive service provided by an Air Force honor guard team. I could see, hear, and feel that other members of Chuck’s extended family were as deeply touched as I by the simple dignity with which the Air Force pays final tribute to its quiet heroes. It must be a very difficult job for these fine young airmen, but they should know that what they do for the rest of us at a time of overwhelming grief is beyond measure, beyond words. Thank you from the bottom of our slowly healing hearts.



Space Observer

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A Moment in Time: September



■ On Sept. 24, 1987, the Air Force Thunderbirds put on a show for a crowd of 5,000 over Beijing. This is the first time in nearly 40 years that a U.S. combat aircraft flew over and landed on Chinese soil.

■ On Sept. 25, 1918, Capt Edward V. Rickenbacker of the 94th Aero Squadron battled seven aircraft and shot down two over France. He received the first Medal of Honor given for air operations.

Information courtesy of Staff Sgt. Trisha Morgan, 21st Space Wing History Office.

Peterson volunteers help Hayman Fire victim

By 1st Lt. Mike Andrews
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 21st Logistics Support Squadron recently volunteered their time and efforts for a Hayman Fire relief day.

The day was organized by the Coalition for the Upper

South Platte with a goal to build a wall of sandbags around a World War II veterans well to prevent expected fall rains from filling his well with sediment and to protect his home from flooding.

During the Hayman Fire, nearly 140,000 acres of forest were burned and more than 130

homes were lost. Although the fire was eventually contained, it burned out ground vegetation and created flood hazards for people who live in the area.

The day was a success because of the great team effort, with Douglas County donating the sand and the U.S. Forest Service donating the sand bags.

The volunteers started at 10 a.m. and worked until 3 p.m. filling, hauling, and stacking hundreds of sandbags. The homeowner said that he was especially proud to have members of his armed forces volunteering to help in his time of need.

"We cleared brush, filled sandbags, and built a retaining wall," said Tech. Sgt. Floyd



21st LSS members fill sand bags to build a retaining wall.



Courtesy photos

Volunteers build a retaining wall around the property of a veteran whose home was threatened by flooding.

Martinez, 21st LSS Quality Assurance Evaluator. "It would have been difficult for the homeowner to have done the work for himself, so he was very grateful for the help we provided."

The 21st LSS excels both on and off the job. In addition to its volunteer efforts, the 21st

LSS Air Terminal was recognized last year as the Air Force Space Command Air Terminal of the Year.

For information on how to volunteer or make a donation, call the Hayman Recovery Assistance Center at 800-420-9110 or 303-688-9260.

CFC launches Tuesday

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The annual Pikes Peak Region Combined Federal Campaign will kick off 9:45 a.m. Tuesday at the U.S. Air Force Academy's Arnold Hall.

The event officially welcomes donors to the 2002 region-wide Air Force and Postal Service CFC kickoff rally and agency fair.

Here keynote speakers will acknowledge the significance of the campaign and the importance of the roles of project officers and key workers.

Master of ceremonies will be Jon Karroll, KRDO Television News Anchor.

Speaking first will be Lt. Gen. John R. Dallager, Superintendent U. S. Air Force Academy and host for this year's campaign.

"Today, we have an opportunity to make a difference for tomorrow," said Dallager. "CFC connects us to our fellow workers and the community through charitable giving, as you will see by the diversity of agencies at the ceremony. CFC is a vehicle by which we can provide funds to serve virtually every area of humanitarian need."

Other speakers will include Maj. Steve Sandridge, alternate Project Officer for USAFA; Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander; Maj. Brent Talbot, USAFA Instructor; and Col. Larry James, 50th Space Wing

Commander.

The speakers will highlight different facets of the CFC.

"The CFC is our annual chance to 'put our money where our mouth is' and demonstrate our commitment to the causes of our choice," said Deal. "Though we may not be aware, I guarantee we all know someone who has benefited from the institutions CFC supports; the campaign allows us to continue that support to benefit many more."

Following the guest speakers will be a lunch buffet.

Due to security around Arnold Hall and limited parking, Peterson will be providing transportation to the Academy. At 8:30 a.m. buses will depart from the front of Bldg. 1 and another from Bldg. 350.

Parking for government vehicles will be available at the main parking lot at Arnold Hall, and all other vehicles need to be parked at Harmon Hall.

Questions about the kick off event can be directed to Tom O'Toole at 556-4448, or Lt. Rick VanSchoor at 556-7566.



A good idea could mean great money

By Christie Bond
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program rewards people who find ways to save money. Ideas are not limited to duty-related suggestions or hard dollar savings. They can be suggestions about any area of the military experience, and the savings can be indirect, such as more efficient processes and increased morale.

The monetary awards range from a minimum of \$200 to a maximum of \$10,000 per money-saving idea.

Joseph Poniatowski of the 21st Contracting Squadron was awarded the maximum \$10,000 through the IDEA Program last month.

As a contracting officer, Poniatowski saw a need to revise the methods used in negotiating monthly fees-discounts for cellular phone service.

AT&T uses pricing from their General Service Administration contract. They offer discounts based on the total revenue tracked against the GSA contract. The total revenue was reviewed annually, and discounts for the following year were locked in.

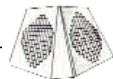
To increase the revenue and get the greater discounts, Poniatowski expanded the contract from Peterson alone to include the entire Department of Defense and any federal employee.

As more and more users took advantage of the contract, the revenue to AT&T began to increase rapidly. Poniatowski then negotiated to have the revenue review done quarterly instead of annually. In the first three quarters of fiscal year 2002, the discount rose from 2 percent to the maximum of 15 percent.

This idea saves the Department of Defense more than 7 million dollars annually.

In fiscal year 2002, more than 2,600 ideas have been submitted to the Air Force IDEA Program, and more than two million dollars have been awarded to idea submitters.

To submit your Idea, go to the IDEA hot button on PeteCentral.



HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH LUNCHEON

The Peterson Hispanic Heritage Committee is hosting a National Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Officers' Club.

Tickets are now on sale. Contact a Hispanic Heritage Committee member or call Airman 1st Class Jessica Sanchez at 556-6493.

WATER RESTRICTIONS
STILL IN EFFECT

During Stage II, residents should water their lawns in the early morning or late evening for no more than three hours per day.

- Sundays -- even numbers
- Mondays -- no watering
- Tuesdays -- odd numbers
- Wednesdays -- even numbers
- Thursdays -- no watering
- Fridays -- no watering
- Saturdays -- odd numbers

Peterson has achieved a 21 percent reduction in water usage, and will continue to stay consistent with the savings set by the city.

Watch the base marquees, the Commander's Access Channel, and the *Space Observer* for the latest water restriction stages and changes to the plan.

USNORTHCOM
ACTIVATION,
U.S.SPACE TRANSITION

A ceremony in which United States Space Command will case the command's colors in preparation for transition into the new USSTRATCOM and the formal activation for United States Northern Command is scheduled for 10 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1, in

Hangar 1 (Building 140). Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will preside over the ceremonies. Base security will be heightened due to numbers and levels of people attending the ceremony. The ceremony is open only to invited guests and people with access to the base.

ATTENTION ALL
BILLING OFFICIALS

Fiscal year 2002 is drawing to a close, which means it's almost time to get started for the new Fiscal Year 2003 on Oct. 1. In order to spend funds on your Government Purchase Card, a few steps need to be taken by the billing official (approving official). First, an AF 4009 needs to be filled out in ABSS and submitted to finance. Secondly, a new request letter signed by the organization commander listing all the cardholders and approving officials and their dollar limits must be submitted to the 21st Contracting Squadron LGCP. These actions should be taken Oct. 1 or later. If you have any questions, call 556-4939.

RED CROSS CLASSES

The Red Cross offers the following classes in October at Peterson Air Force Base:

Adult CPR – Oct. 15, 6-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30.

First Aid – Oct. 17, 6-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30.

Child and infant CPR – Oct. 23, 6-10 p.m. Cost is \$35.

Babysitter training (for youth ages 11-15) – Oct. 19 and 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$30.

All classes are held in Building 350, (Mission Support). For more information or to register call Karen

Ellis at 556-9201.

EDUCATION OFFICE
OPPORTUNITIES

■ New testing hours -- The testing office has changed its hours to Monday through Thursday. Testing begins at 9 a.m. and noon and Fridays at 9 a.m. Examinees must arrive 15 minutes prior to testing time to sign in.

■ Project management certificate -- Colorado Technical University offers a Certificate Program at Peterson AFB in Project Management. The first course will begin Oct. 7. Call Bob Golightly (590-6703) or Laura Meyer (590-6711) for more information.

NO DOOR-TO-DOOR
SOLICITING

The start of the school year signals the start of numerous fund-raising activities for children. This results in children (and their parents) soliciting for sales of various items.

This practice is prohibited, whether door-to-door in family housing, the dorms, TLFs, or in work areas. However, anyone who wants to set up a sales table at the BX (for sales at that point) can submit a request to the 21st SPTG commander for approval/disapproval.

HEART LINK SPOUSE
ORIENTATION

Heart Link is a Spouse Orientation Program developed for spouses who have been married fewer than five years and are new to the military lifestyle. The goal of this program is to promote spouse awareness of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol and support resources and services available to them. Heart Link focuses on the

importance of the spouse as a critical part of the Air Force team, and provides participants with information about community resources that are available to help them and their families. All of the activities are presented in an interactive manner designed to make the experience both worthwhile and enjoyable for the spouses. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Peterson Enlisted Club. Refreshments and lunch are provided. Spouses interested in participating should contact Jane Gutierrez at the Family Support Center at 556-6141.

OPEN SEASON FOR
FEDERAL LONG TERM
CARE INSURANCE
PROGRAM

Open Season for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program started July 1, and continues through Dec. 31. A representative from Long Term Care Partners will hold educational meetings Oct. 7 and 8 at the Peterson theater at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. Created solely for members of the Federal Family, the new Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is a new benefit designed to protect insured individuals from the potentially high cost of long term care. Long-term care is

ongoing care for people who need lengthy or even lifelong assistance with daily living due to an illness, injury, or severe cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease.


This program features group premiums for eligible members of the Federal Family, coverage for informal home care, access to care coordination services for qualified relatives of enrollees, and international benefits, among other benefits.

For more information regarding the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program or for details on the educational meetings, call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337), TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-843-3557, or visit the Web site at www.LTCFEDS.com.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NAVY BALL

The Rocky Mountain Navy 227th Birthday Ball will be 6 p.m.-midnight, Oct. 4, at the Sheraton Hotel, Colorado Springs.

The prices for this year's ball are E-6 and below is \$20, E-7 to O-3 \$35, and general admission for the event is \$42.

For more information on the ball, or for dress requirements contact your command representative. 

At the
Base Chapel

Protestant

Liturgical Worship,
8:15 a.m.
Traditional Sunday Worship
11 a.m.
Gospel Services, 12:30 p.m.

Catholic

Weekday Mass, 11:35 a.m.
Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Reconciliation
Saturdays, 4 p.m.



Religious Education

Catholic and Protestant
Sunday School classes
begin at 8:30 and 9:45 a.m.
respectively. Call the Chapel
for details.

**For more information
Call the chapel at 556-
4442 for available
chapel programs.



Have a story
idea? Let us
know by call-
ing 556-4351
or by e-mail-
ing us at

[space.observer@
peterson.af.mil](mailto:space.observer@peterson.af.mil)

Check out the
Space Observer
online at
[www.spaceobserver.
com](http://www.spaceobserver.com)

Blotter

The following real-life events with real individuals from around the Peterson Complex are to inform you of crimes, accidents, and events occurring on base.

The following entries are from hundreds recorded in the Peterson Police Blotter recently:

***Editor's note: Although the Space Observer staff may make light of some Blotter entries, the intent is to call attention to our security and law enforcement concerns. However, rest assured, our professional Security Forces treat each incident seriously.*

Stay semi-conscious: Backing & bonking #1 - Sept. 10

Security Forces responded to an accident at the corner of Otis and Vincent streets. A commercial driver was backing his semi-truck into the parking lot of Bldg. 1376 and backed into a car on his blind side. The semi won the match with no damage, while the car had its hood damaged.

911 Medical Response - Sept. 10

A base housing resi-

dent called 911 to report uncontrollable shaking after taking prescribed medications. The Fire Department and ambulance were contacted and responded. The victim was transported to Memorial Hospital for further treatment.

Accidental two-tone cars: Backing & bonking #2 -- Sept. 11

Security Forces responded to an accident reported at the BX parking lot. A white sedan backed into a blue one, swapping paint and creating two cars with blue and white paint schemes. The driver of the originally white sedan was issued a citation for improper backing.

"Tired" SUV: Backing & bonking #3 -- Sept. 11

Security Forces responded to yet another reported accident at the BX. This time, one SUV showed "where there's a wheel, there's a way"-as he was backing out of the space, he tooled its spare tire smack dab into the drivers' side

rear quarter panel of the other, leaving a 24-inch dent and scratches.

The backing bonker was rewarded with a citation for improper backing.

Pickup line -- Sept. 12

Security Forces responded to an accident reported between two pickups in the Commissary parking lot. Seems one pickup driver stated a car parked in front of hers had hit it. However, that pickup had been parked over the line.

The bonking pickup had a bent plate bracket, while the bonkee had a minor paint chip. No citations were issued due to negligence of both operators.

Request for assistance - Sept. 12

A Colorado Springs Police dispatcher telephoned the Security Forces requesting their assistance to direct outbound traffic to northbound Powers Blvd. due to a vehicle accident at the intersection of Powers Blvd. and Airport Rd.

Cowardly crunch -- Sept. 12

An individual summoned the security Forces regarding her vehicle being hit at the Shopette. The victim

stated she was contacted by three witnesses in the parking lot and told her vehicle had been hit by a red station wagon. She further related that witnesses saw the individual get out of his vehicle and check the damage and drive off. Investigation to find offender is on-going.

Underage + Alcohol = Dumb -- Sept. 12

Security Forces received a call stating there was an altercation in a base dorm. They arrived on scene and were told by witnesses that several military and civilians were initially drinking beer outside of a dorm room, and then were involved in a verbal altercation. They also reported two were being held back from each other to avoid a fight over a girlfriend, evidently as part of a "manly drunken ritual." While getting additional information, SFS detected alcohol fuming from one of the individual's breath.

SFS then asked for identification from the individuals, determined they were all under the influence of alcohol, and that three were under the legal age of 21. Security Forces notified the police and asked them to respond to the two civilians.

The two military members were released after their supervisors signed a receipt for detained personnel.

Found property -- Sept. 13

A watch was turned in to the Security Forces by a civilian contractor, and placed in the found property locker.

Past his expiration date -- Sept. 13

A civilian contractor was detained after an identification check revealed that not only did he have an expired driver's license, his insurance was also expired. His welcome at Peterson also expired, as he was transferred to the C.S. Police. They impounded and towed his vehicle, as well as impounding him.

Thick-headed thief -- Sept. 13

A dependent was nabbed at the BX for shoplifting a \$13 sweatshirt. The individual was taken to Security Forces headquarters, and issued a summons by C.S. Police for shoplifting, and then transferred to Colorado Springs police for processing.

(Anyone witnessing an unlawful act should call the Security Forces at 556-4000.)





August, September legal actions released

Base legal officials recently announced the court-martial and Article 15 actions for July and August 2001.

COURTS-MARTIAL

– Airman 1st Class Joshua Elmore, assigned to the 721st Communications Squadron, located at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo., was tried by General Court-Martial for violation of one specification of Article 120, UCMJ, carnal knowledge, violation of two specifications of Article 92, UCMJ, failure to obey lawful order, violation of two specifications of Article 134, UCMJ, indecent or lewd acts with another and solicitation, violation of one specification of Article 125, UCMJ, sodomy on a child 12 to 18 years of age, violation of one specification of Article 112a, UCMJ, wrongful use of marijuana. The accused pled guilty to all charges and specifications. The court sentenced the member to a bad conduct discharge, 18 months confinement, and reduction to airman basic.

– Airman 1st Class Kimberly Flores, assigned to 21st Security Forces Squadron, was tried by Special Court-Martial for violation of one specification of Article 112a, UCMJ, wrongful use of cocaine. The accused pled guilty to the charge and specification. The member was sentenced to one month confinement and reduction to the grade of airman basic. The member will be administratively discharged with a characterization of Under Other than

Honorable Conditions.

ARTICLE 15

– An airman 1st class assigned to the 721st SFS received an Article 15 for violation of Article 86, UCMJ, failure to go to appointed place of duty at building 100 and Article 107, UCMJ, making a false official statement. The member received a reduction to the rank of airman, restriction to Peterson AFB for 15 days, 15 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

– An airman assigned to the 721st SFS received an Article 15 for violation of Article 134, UCMJ, fleeing scene of accident and violation of Article 92, UCMJ, dereliction of duty by not reporting accident to Security Forces. The member received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman basic, forfeiture of \$150.00 for 2 months, 12 days of extra duty, and a reprimand.

– A senior airman assigned to the 721st SFS received an Article 15 for violation of Article 134, UCMJ, negligently discharged a firearm. The member received a forfeiture of \$250 pay for one month and a reprimand.

– A staff sergeant assigned to

the 721st Civil Engineer Squadron received an Article 15 for violation of Article 134, UCMJ, disrespect to a civilian employee who was superior to the service member. The member received a reduction to the rank of senior airman and a reprimand.

– A senior airman assigned to the 721st CES received an Article 15 for violation of Article 91, UCMJ, disrespectful toward a non-commissioned officer. The member received a reduction to the rank of airman 1st class and a reprimand.

– A senior airman assigned to the 21st SFS received an Article 15 for violation of Article 93, UCMJ, cruelty and maltreatment (verbal) toward female members. The member received a reduction to the rank of airman 1st class.

– An airman assigned to the 21st SFS received an Article 15 for violation of Article 92, UCMJ, dereliction of duty (underage drinking), and Article 107, UCMJ, making a false official statement to a senior NCO. The member received a forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two months and 30 days extra duty.

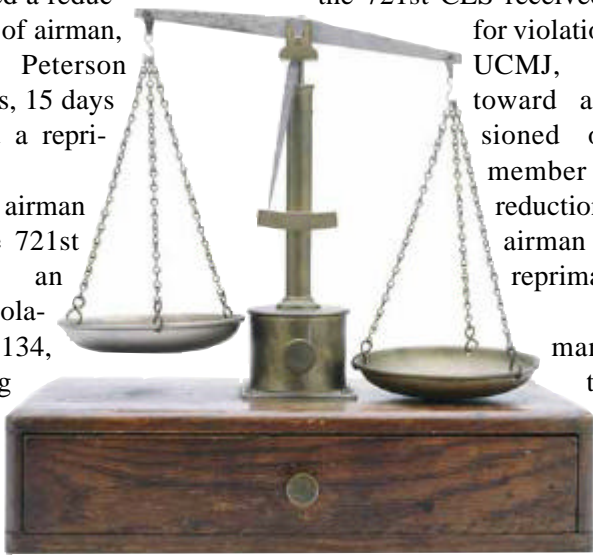
– An airman 1st class assigned to the 21st Mission Support Squadron received an Article 15 for violation of Article 92, UCMJ, dereliction of duty by failing to remain awake and alert during shift. The member received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman, 45 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

– An airman 1st class assigned to the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron received an Article 15 for violation of Article 86, UCMJ, failure to go to appointed place of duty at building 1368. The member received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman, 45 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

– An airman 1st class assigned to the 21st CES received an Article 15 for violation of Article 86, UCMJ, failure to go to appointed place of duty at building 1324. The member received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman, restriction to Peterson AFB for 30 days, 30 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

– An airman 1st class assigned to the 544th Information Operations Group received an Article 15 for violation of Article 134, UCMJ, indecent acts or liberties with a minor (under age of 16). The member received a reduction to the rank of airman basic, forfeiture of \$500 pay for one month, and a reprimand.

(Information courtesy of the 21st Space Wing Legal Office)



Interested in Air Force opportunities?



Contact Air Force Recruiting Service at www.airforce.com or 800-423-USAF



A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

Rafters take on River of No Return

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

As whitewater season comes to a close for Outdoor Recreation guides in training and those more experienced took an end-of-the-year trip to the Salmon River in Idaho last week.

Trainees from Peterson and the U.S. Air Force Academy Outdoor Recreation facilities learned river rafting techniques, leadership, teamwork, risk management, situational awareness, swift-water rescue and logistics during the week long trip.

“I hope that people will have developed more river knowledge and skills and will be more confident after this trip,” said Susan Morrison, Outdoor Recreation employee and trip leader. “I also hope they take with them a sense of understanding and respect for the river and wilderness, as well as the feeling of camaraderie among each other.”

On a trip that includes 15 people, six days and 83 miles of river, an experienced trip leader is a must. Trip leaders are chosen for their experience, and knowledge of the river, but still learn new things with each trip.

“I learned that being a trip leader holds tremendous responsibility for the safety and organization of the crew,” said Morrison. “I learned that

I constantly had to be objective to all situations and pay attention to details that others did not recognize. I learned that, as a trip leader, you try and be as fair as possible, but knowing that you can never please everyone.”

“On the river, I learned how to handle different types of rafts, how to read the river and recognize where to steer the boat and what to keep away from,” said Capt. Maggie Corbett, Military Equal Opportunity Chief and rafting trainee. “Most importantly, I learned my own capabilities.”

Every day along the Salmon River, whitewater rafters pitched in, setting up tents and cooking warm meals for the day.

“Outside of the rafting, 15 people living together for six days requires a great deal of cooperation and teamwork and this group pulled it off flawlessly,” said Corbett. “All of the volunteers pitched in to cook, clean, rig and load boats and in general help each other out. The smoothness of the entire operation speaks volumes about the quality of the leadership at the Peterson and U.S. Air Force Academy Outdoor Recreation Centers, as well as all the volunteers.”

Each trip helps rafters accumulate hours needed in order to get certified so that they can eventually take a



Photo by 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout

Outdoor Rec rafters conquer Class III+ rapids along the Salmon River nicknamed the ‘River of No Return’.

group of customers down the river.

“As a white water rafting guide trainee, the Salmon River trip is extremely important because it offers an opportunity to train one-on-one in a raft with a certified guide, and allows the trainee to accumulate the miles and hours required to earn certification here in Colorado,” said Corbett.

“When you’re qualified, you teach the new guides, and you guide fellow service members to places they might not be able to go otherwise,” said Keith Henderson, Outdoor Recreation Adventure Director.

Over the whitewater-rafting season, Outdoor Recreation takes customers out to the Royal Gorge and Parkdale Rivers, but trying out new rivers presents challenges.

“Rafting Royal Gorge and Parkdale week after week, we become comfort-

able with the river, knowing where you need to go,” said 1st Lt. Jo Ann Verzella, 50th Civil Engineer Squadron and rafting trainee. “Going on a river you are not familiar with makes you look at the river and figure out where it is you need to go. This is an important skill to rafting.”

The whitewater program at Outdoor Recreation is always looking for future volunteers. The program will start up again this coming spring. The program allows individuals to receive training and for free.

“Rafting is just the beginning of the fun you have while volunteering,” said Verzella. “Over time, you get the opportunity to meet so many great people—both the people you work with and the people you are helping out on the river.”

For more information about the rafting program, call Outdoor Recreation at 556-4867.



This Week

Today

■ Teen Council meeting, 5 p.m., at the Youth and Teen Center.

Sunday

■ National Hot Dog Week, 25 cents off all week, at the Community Activities Center.

Monday

■ Mothers on the Move, at the Family Advocacy Center.
■ Horseshoe tournament registration deadline, at the Sports and Fitness Center.

Tuesday

■ Stained Glass class, at the Community Activities Center.
■ Horseshoe tournament, 5 p.m., at the Sports and Fitness Center.
■ Dog Obedience Class, 6-8 p.m., at the Community Activities Center.

Wednesday

■ Horseshoe tournament, 5 p.m., at the Sports and Fitness Center.
■ Story time 10:15 a.m., at the Library.
■ Aero Club Safety meeting, 5:45 p.m., at the Hartinger Building.

Thursday

■ Play group, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at the Chapel.

Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers’ Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Aragon Menu Line 556-4782
- Outdoor Recreation 556-4487
- Golf Course 556-7810

This Week

SERVICES CALENDARS

At the Officers’ Club		September 21 -- Gourmet Dinner, 6-8 p.m.	September 22 -- Brunch, 10:30 a.m.-1p.m.	September 24-- Steak Night, 6-8 p.m.
At the Enlisted Club		September 25-- Country Buffet, 5-7 p.m.	September -- waiting for info	September -- waiting for info
At Outdoor Recreation		September 21 -- Trip to Tidewater Experimental Learning Center.	September -- waiting for info	September -- waiting for info

Exercise, exercise, exercise!

Wing tests ability to survive, operate in contingency operations



Photo by Maj. Andrew Conn
Peterson Firefighters fight a simulated aircraft and structure fire during the wing's contingency exercise Tuesday. The scenario involved a simulated crash of a small aircraft into a building at Peterson.



Photos by Joe Fischer
Security Forces secure an accident scene during the wing's contingency exercise Tuesday.



Col. Marvin Fisher, 21st Support Group Commander and exercise on-scene commander, briefs disaster control group members about the status of an exercise C-130 crash.

By Tech. Sgt. Gino Mattorano
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

Many 21st Space Wing members began their week a bit earlier than usual as the wing kicked off its quarterly contingency exercise Monday.

An early morning recall set the wing's war readiness machine into motion, as the battle staff and unit control centers stood up and prepared to fight natural disasters, terrorism, and anything else the exercise controllers might throw their way.

"Train like you fight" isn't just a cliché -- it's got to be a way of life for us. Through such exercises, we get a chance to achieve the focused training we need to ensure we can fight effectively if called upon, and to defend effectively on a daily basis," said Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st SW Commander. "Team Pete encountered everything from simulated local terrorist attacks to distant missile warning and space control actions, and soared throughout. We'll keep up the testing to further hone our forces' skills to meet our nation's needs."

The global presence of the wing's geographically separated units creates unique challenges for exercise controllers to test the wing's ability to maintain mission operations in contingencies.

"In order to test the wing and how it operates with our GSUs, we have to deal with factors like time differences and communications outages," said Lou Collachi, 21st Space Wing exercise director. "However, given the challenges the wing faced, I think they did a great job of main-

taining command and control throughout the exercise. Overall, I would say the exercise went extremely well."

The exercise focused on challenging the wing's ability to continue operations despite a buildup in local, national, and international threats.

"Our main goal was to build up to a terrorist attack on Peterson," said Collachi. "The exercise culminated with a terrorist crashing a plane into a building that disrupted the base's communications networks. Our goal is to test the wing's operations and contingency plans to prepare the wing for any contingency, in war or during peacetime."

The exercises also test the wing's functional areas such as fire department, medical response, and security forces.

"We try to involve as many of the wing's functional areas as possible," said Collachi. "In a real-world contingency, any aspect of the base could be affected, so we test everything down to self-aid and buddy care procedures that everyone should be able to perform."

In addition to functional areas, the wing also tries to incorporate tenant units into exercise operations.

"In contingencies, any area of the base could be affected, so we work closely with our tenant units, like the 302nd Airlift Wing, to integrate them into exercise scenarios. Our goal is for exercises to be as realistic as possible."

With the ever-changing threat environment, the Wing constantly revises and updates its contingency plans.

"During our exercises we try to test our plans to see if they need to be revised or completely changed to work with our constantly changing environment," said Collachi. "We work closely with 14th Air Force to ensure that the wing's war-fighting ability is utilized as efficiently as possible."



Exercise planners use mannequins to simulate casualties to give wing exercises more realism.



Photo by Maj. Andrew Conn

Above: Staff Sgt. Brad Hanenkrafft, 10th Dental Squadron, prepares Tech. Sgt. Robert Goble, 21st Communications Squadron, to be an exercise accident victim. Moulage technicians make exercise victims appear to have real injuries to add realism to scenarios and test self-aid/buddy care skills.

Left: Damage Assessment Team members assess the situation at an exercise plane crash, while a Security Forces member secures the area.



Airman 1st Class Cory Bahl, 810th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering, puts on a protective suit to enter the scene of an exercise C-130 crash Monday.



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Pat Hughes, 21st Space Wing Plans and Programs, is interviewed by a news reporter while attending a victim during the Colorado Springs exercise.

Wing assists city in major accident response exercise

By MSgt Charles Turner
21st Space Wing Inspector General Office

The 21st Space Wing recently tested the ability of its emergency response teams to provide assistance to civilian agencies during a Colorado Springs city-wide exercise known as Operation Hourglass.

The exercise scenario simulated a terrorist cell operating in the Colorado Springs area that caused the release of chlorine gas from a train car. The chlorine drifted over Antler's Park in downtown Colorado Springs at the same time a bomb exploded in the park. The gas and explosion injured more than 100 exercise victims.

Victims were treated at the scene by Colorado Springs and Peterson fire departments, and American Medical Response personnel. Penrose and Memorial hospitals received the victims, testing their ability to handle decontamination and caring for a large number of victims in a major accident.

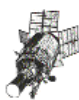
Team Peterson provided 19 fire department and bioenvironmental specialists and 25 extra personnel to act as demonstrators and victims during the exercise. The extras played a demonstrator group known as Citizens Against Overtaking Space, providing a distraction and testing emergency personnel's ability to handle large crowds during an incident.

Peterson Fire Department personnel provided expertise on scene management, biological detection and decontamination, while closely integrating with their city counterparts.

"The training, integration, cooperation, and lessons learned during combined exercises enhances the interface between the local community and Peterson AFB," said Staff Sgt. Dave Maas, 21st Inspector General Exercise Controller. "Exercises can mean the difference between life and death in a real world situation."



Peterson bioenvironmental specialists decontaminate an exercise accident victim after he was exposed to simulated chlorine gas.



NCO sets bench press world record

By Richard Zowie
[12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs](#)

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Gene Bell recently set world and national records with a 514-pound bench press at the USA Powerlifting National Bench Press Championships in Bedford Heights, Ohio.

The quarter-ton-plus lift gave Bell, a master sergeant assigned to the Air Force Services Agency, the Master’s World Bench Press and USA National record in the 198-pound division.

“To be able to lift that much weight takes genetics, dedication and the ability to plan and visualize your goals,” said Bell, who has lifted as much as 565 pounds in training sessions.

With the lift, Bell placed third in the Open division and won the Masters division at the championship.

He was also selected as a first alternate team member

and as an assistant team coach for Team USA for the International Powerlifting Federation World Bench Press Championships, which will be held Dec. 5 to 8 in Luxembourg.

Bell added the record and his win to his collection of 13 USA National powerlifting titles and 10 International Powerlifting Federation World powerlifting titles.

According to Bell, in the 27 years he has been powerlifting, he has set more than 20 world records.

“Setting and achieving goals of attaining world records gives me a lot of satisfaction,” Bell said.

The powerlifter also said he holds the highest posted total of any powerlifter in the sport’s history in a sanctioned meet in the 181-pound division with 2,110 total pounds. This total, which he attained in 1988, consists of an 847.5-pound squat, 529.3-pound bench press and a 733.5-



Photo by Jennifer Valentin

Gene Bell, a master sergeant assigned to the Air Force Services Agency, bench presses at the fitness center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. Bell recently set world and national records at a powerlifting competition.

pound deadlift.

Bell has also been inducted into the Air Force Heritage Hall of Fame and the

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Sports Hall of Fame. He has been awarded Air Force Athlete of the Year, Pacific Air

Command Athlete of the Year, USAFE Athlete of the Year, and USPL Powerlifter of the Year.

